

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1598

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, CPRS, CASC, CGEN, PROP, OVIP (POPOV, IVAN), BU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS

REF: A) SOFIA 1241 B) SOFIA 1506 C) STATE 189474

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV CONVOKED ME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AT 5:30 P.M. SATURDAY SEPT 7 TO INFORM ME IN HASTE OF FOLLOWING: BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

A. TO RELEASE AMERICAN CITIZEN MARKS PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF HIS SENTENCE (ALREADY REPORTED SOFIA 1590).

B. IN CONSIDERATION OF MY RAISING THE ISSUE OF VOA JAMMING ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS, "TECHNICAL MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN, BEGINNING AT 1800 HOURS TODAY BULGARIAN TIME, TO INCREASE THE AUDIBILITY OF VOA BULGARIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS".

C. LIKewise IN VIEW OF MY RECENT DEMARCHES WITH RESPECT TO DIVIDED FAMILIES, "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DEAL WITH REQUESTS TO LEAVE BULGARIA IN A FAVORABLE MANNER ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS".

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D. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE INITIATED SOONEST TO SETTLE QUESTION OF PREWAR BONDS.

2. FURTHERMORE, MLADENOV SAID, ALSO IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP RELATIONS BETWEEN BULGARIA AND THE UNITED STATES, VICE PREMIER POPOV WILL IN CONNECTION WITH HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT CARRY PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV TO PRESIDENT FORD. "ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THAT YOUR PRESIDENT IS VERY BUSY", MLADENOV SAID, "WE HOPE HE WILL FIND A FEW MINUTES TO RECEIVE THAT MESSAGE PERSONALLY".

3. MLADENOV ALSO MADE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL REMARKS WHICH SHOW HOW EAGER HIS GOVERNMENT IS FOR NORMALIZATION IN OUR RELATIONS:

A. THERE WERE SOME OBITER DICTA ABOUT RADIO FREE EUROPE WHICH HE ASKED ME NOT TO RECORD "BECAUSE I DO NOT WISH ANY NEGATIVE NOTE TO DISTURB THE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF THIS MEETING".

B. SAID HE HAS NOTED DEEP SATISFACTION IN "BULGARIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCLES" WITH THIS YEAR'S AMERICAN PAVILION AT THE PLOVDIV FAIR.

C. CLAIMED THAT SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES HAD BEEN STEADILY IMPROVING AND MADE OTHER COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

4. ALSO RELEVANT IN THIS SITUATION IS THAT DEPUTY PREMIER POPOV CANCELLED HIS ATTENDANCE AT AN INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING TO COME TO PLOVDIV EVENING SEPT 6 TO GREET DEPUTY UNDER SEC OF COMMERCE PANTOS ON "AMERICA DAY" AND TO MAKE POSITIVE REMARKS (REPORTED SEPTEL) ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BULGARIAN-AMERICAN TRADE. POPOV ALMOST MISSED THE WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR PRESIDENT PODGORNYY BY PROLONGING HIS CONVERSATION IN SOFIA THIS MORNING WITH MR. PANTOS.

5. FULLER REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW WHEN EMBASSY RETURNS TO NORMAL OPERATIONS AFTER BULGARIAN HOLIDAYS SEPT 11.
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